

WATER RENTS RAISED

Present Cost 25 Per Cent Higher Than Year Ago.

SURPLUS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Rate Now Is Still 3 Cents, but It Is "Per Hundred Cubic Feet" Instead of "Per 1,000 Gallons" as Formerly. The Consumers Notice Marked Increase in the Latest Bills.

The people of the District of Columbia are paying 25 per cent more for the water they use than they did a year ago—and few, if any, of them know it.

The old rate at which water was supplied to residences was 3 cents per 1,000 gallons. The rate now is still 3 cents, but it is 3 cents per hundred cubic feet. The difference is that one cubic foot of water is about seven and one-half gallons, so that the change means 3 cents for 750 gallons, an advance in cost of 25 per cent.

The law which vested the Commissioners of the District of Columbia with authority to regulate the water supply for the District, dated July 14, 1870, declares (section 198, chapter 8, revised statutes for the District of Columbia):

"The water rates levied in Washington and Georgetown shall never be a source of revenue other than as a means of keeping up to said cities a supply of water, but shall constitute a fund exclusively for the maintenance, management, and repair of the system of water distribution."

In spite of this proviso, the report of the engineer's department of the District shows that in 1906 there was a surplus or profit to the water department of \$36,334 and in 1906 of \$31,500.

Comparative Statements.

A curious thing in the report of the operation of the engineer department is the "comparative statements of revenues." In the report for 1905 the estimated revenue for the year 1906 was \$411,000. In the report for 1906 the revenue is shown to have been \$405,000. The estimated revenues for 1907 in the report for 1906 were estimated at \$404,000.

On August 17, 1906, there was issued from the executive office of the District a statement of new rules and regulations, and this was advertised once in a daily newspaper of the District. This dealt alone with the subject of water meters and water supplied through meters, and the nineteenth regulation of this statement declared that "The rate to be charged for water supplied through meters shall be 3 cents a hundred cubic feet."

Many private consumers have noticed that their latest bills showed a marked increase over former bills, and the reason for this they now see.

In the report for 1906 the Commissioners point out that they have projected a large number of improvements; a number of new mains are to be installed at a cost varying from \$35,000 to \$350,000; a new pump of 30,000 gallons capacity has been contracted for at a cost of \$80,000, and they state that within a few years it will be necessary to erect an additional pumping engine for the second high-pressure system at an estimated cost of \$80,000. The report goes on to say that:

"Further, minor extensions and improvements will also be necessary, bringing the cost up to about \$1,000,000, exclusive of smaller mains laid under the assessment system. It is expected that all of this should gradually be completed within about ten years, and the income from water rents will be sufficient to pay for the improvements."

Raise in Water Rates.

Later on in the report comes the statement about the raise in water rates. It says: "In order to meet the expenses mentioned above, it has been necessary to increase the water rates about 25 per cent, this increase taking effect at the beginning of the fiscal year. It is estimated that with this increase of rates the revenues will amount to \$405,000, which will make a per capita rate of \$1.41."

Commissioner Henry B. F. Macfarland when asked about the increase of rates, said: "The increase in water rates was decided upon last spring, and the citizens of the District were notified through publication in the newspapers. All of the revenue from the supply of water to citizens—all over and above current expenses—is to be used for the extension and the betterment of the service. Even as it is, with our per capita rate under the increase of \$1.41, Washington citizens are getting their water service very much cheaper than other cities. I think we have the lowest rate of any city in the country."

"In 1906 and again in 1906 the reports show that the water system turned in a surplus over and above all expenses of more than \$30,000 for each year. What because of that surplus?"

"I do not know what the figures are just now, but if there was a surplus it was turned into the fund in the Treasury for use for improvements and extensions. One of the improvements contemplated is the installation of water meters as soon as practicable. During the past year meters were installed in squares 24, 25, and 26. A test made of these squares prior to the installation of the meters showed an average daily consumption of about 30 gallons for each premises. Under the meter system this has been decreased 20 per cent, and the end of the year the consumption had been an average of about 37 gallons for each premises. All these improvements cost money, and all of the revenues from the supply of water will be used to defray the cost."

SMOOT EXPECTS VOTE SOON.

Senator and Colleague Anxious for Decision in His Case.

Senator Reed Smoot, of Utah, expects that an agreement will be reached for a vote on his case about February 15, but there is so much mystery surrounding the case that it is suggested in some quarters that there may not be a vote at all. Senator Burrows, of Michigan, chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, has not yet asked for the fixing of a day for a vote on the resolution reported from his committee declaring Senator Smoot's seat vacant.

His delay has given his colleague, Mr. Dubois (Dem.), of Idaho, some uneasiness, for he realizes that the session is rapidly drawing to a close, and appropriation bills and other important matters will press for the legislative right of way. A dozen Senators have expressed a desire to speak on the Smoot case before a vote is taken. There are many others who secretly believe the Utah Senator should not be ousted, but do not care to invite the wrath of the million or more women protesters who have memorialized the Senate in favor of unseating Mr. Smoot.

Senator Burrows said before leaving for Detroit to attend the funeral of the late Senator Alger that he would ask as soon as he returns that a day be fixed for a vote. Each side claims a majority of the votes, but the expressions of Senators indicate a majority in favor of Senator Smoot.

WANTS SEMI-INSANE LAW

Illinois Board of Charities Would Make New Classification.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 27.—"Are you on the borderland of insanity to-day?" "Do you think the lunatic catcher will get you before night?"

Questions like this will be of serious import if the legislature approve the State board of charities' recommendations in its report just submitted to Gov. Denen.

Under the board's proposed "borderland insanity" law, persons not insane, but suspected of being on the verge of mental collapse, could be sent to an asylum for thirty days on trial.

"Borderland insanity," the report remarks, is one of the most perplexing problems with which alienists have to deal. Many men are declared on the high road to insanity without knowing it. Prompt treatment would save many of them.

CALL PETITIONS FORGERY.

Chicago Aldermen Demand Investigation of Referendum Signatures.

Chicago, Jan. 27.—Investigation will be demanded in the city council to-morrow night of charges that thousands of forged signatures have been used on the petitions for a referendum vote on the proposed settlement between the city of Chicago and the traction interests of the street railroad problem, over which experts have been puzzling for ten years past.

Mayor Dunne, who demands a referendum, says the necessary 50,000 signatures have been secured to compel the council to submit the settlement of the proposition to a popular vote.

The representatives of the traction interests and the advocates of immediate approval of the plan think the elimination of the alleged forgeries will reduce the total number of names below 50,000.

Harry Ascher, one of the men employed to circulate the referendum petitions, was arrested last night on complaint of the Referendum League, charged with forging signatures. The league members say, however, that such cases are not sufficiently numerous materially to reduce the lists.

FOUR HURT IN AUTO CRASH

Machine Skids When Shot Full Speed at Corner.

Freeport, Long Island, Jan. 27.—Two women were badly hurt, and their husbands slightly, hurt in an automobile accident at Greenwich Point, midway between this place and Hempstead, to-day. The most seriously hurt is Mrs. Ralph Foreman, of Hempstead. Her chest appears to be badly injured and her right hip is broken.

They had left Hempstead and were coming toward this village at a good speed. At Greenwich Point, where there is a bend in the road, and Ralph Foreman, who was driving, tried to take it at full speed. The wheels skidded, and the rear of the car slid around until the car was at right angles to the road. Then the car shot up a small embankment and into a little grove of locust trees. A couple of limbs caught the top of the car and stopped it. Then with the back spring they sent the car backward and to one side. As it reached the embankment it toppled over sideways.

DIES IN FIGHT WITH POLICE.

Virginia Merchant Turns Upon Pursuers and Is Shot Down.

Danville, Va., Jan. 27.—As the result of a running pistol fight with three police officers, R. E. Reynolds, a young merchant, who lives near Chatham, this county, was killed.

Policemen Smith, Edwards, and Morris had been detailed to capture Albert Atkins, a young white man, who recently escaped from the city jail. While searching the city Tom Corbin's white, ran out of a house in a wounded condition. He gave a description of the man who shot him. A few minutes later Reynolds was seen running and officers started after him.

Smith fired for the purpose of frightening him and commanded him to stop. Reynolds turned on the officers and fired several shots at them while retreating. They returned the fire and he fell to the ground in a dying condition.

TWO MEN ARE MISSING.

Police Searching for W. R. Bradford and George Reynolds.

The police have been asked to be on the lookout for William R. Bradford, aged twenty-five years, who has been missing from his home, 169 Fifteenth street northwest, since Saturday morning. When the man failed to return to his home yesterday morning his friends called the assistance of the police. They stated that since the death of the man's wife, about two weeks ago, he has been acting queerly.

Shortly after this "lookout" had been received the police were notified that one of the improvements contemplated is the installation of water meters as soon as practicable. During the past year meters were installed in squares 24, 25, and 26. A test made of these squares prior to the installation of the meters showed an average daily consumption of about 30 gallons for each premises. Under the meter system this has been decreased 20 per cent, and the end of the year the consumption had been an average of about 37 gallons for each premises. All these improvements cost money, and all of the revenues from the supply of water will be used to defray the cost."

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AID GIVEN AUTHORESS

Olive Logan Leaves Tenement Quarters Forever.

LADY COOK BEFRIENDS HER

Writer of Fiction Will Make Her Home in Paris with Her Benefactress, Tennessee Claflin—Reception Held, and Many Come to Congratulate Her on Her Good Fortune.

New York, Jan. 27.—There was merry-making, much sipping of thin, red punch, nibbling of wafers, and a pleasant crackling of tongues this afternoon at the Hotel San Remo, where the old friends of Olive Logan gathered to congratulate her on bettered fortune, and to meet Lady Cook, who was Tennessee Claflin before she married Sir Francis Cook, a London merchant, and who has come to her rescue.

Olive Logan isn't living in a shabby Seventh avenue tenement any more, nor does she have to be out in all weathers getting stories for the newspapers in order to placate butchers and bakers who cared little about the authoress of "Surf" and much about her bills. She was at the San Remo, and will sail soon for Paris. She expects to spend the remainder of her life in Lady Cook's home.

She stood with Lady Cook and Lady Purdon Clarke in the reception parlor of the San Remo this afternoon, a quaint and pleasant picture. Her hair is almost snow white, but the lines of trouble in her face haven't spoiled its comeliness.

Gowned in Purple Velvet. She wore a gown of purple velvet, with white lace at the throat and wrists. She was very happy, and sometimes she cried a little. Then that girl of other ladies dabbed at their eyes with handkerchiefs and congratulated her through her car trumpet for she is very deaf.

The one-time Tennessee Claflin hurried about the reception parlor, a bundle of nerves, always smiling, always talking, keen for a new face. She gayly confessed to sixty-nine years. She has fluffy white hair, and there were young girls in the party that envied her delicate pink-and-white complexion.

"Young!" Of course I am young. The only women that ever grow old are the women who do nothing," she said. Coming back to Olive Logan, she said: "Look at this girl, isn't she still pretty? I don't deny that I am still. Why shouldn't we be? We were beauties in our day."

The white-haired friends of Olive Logan and Tennessee Claflin, nearly all of them were dressed in half forgotten styles.

Meeting Recalls Olden Times.

The talk ran merrily on matters that the present generation has forgotten. Olive Logan told stories about her life in England and Wales, when she was the wife of William W. Skyes, an author and journalist, who was once consul at Cardiff. They talked about the books she had written, such as "Photographs of Paris Life," "Chateau Frisasse," "Women and Theaters," "Get Thee Behind Me, Satan," and others. Many of them had the chief events of Tennessee Claflin's strenuous career vividly photographed in their memories, recalling when she went into Wall street with her sister, Victoria Woodhull, afterward the wife of John Biddulph Martin, a London banker.

Mary Ellen Lease swept into the reception parlor, big and smiling, like a Kansas zephyr, with a strong-hand grip and a jolly "How de do." She was the wife of William W. Skyes, an author and journalist, who was once consul at Cardiff. They talked about the books she had written, such as "Photographs of Paris Life," "Chateau Frisasse," "Women and Theaters," "Get Thee Behind Me, Satan," and others. Many of them had the chief events of Tennessee Claflin's strenuous career vividly photographed in their memories, recalling when she went into Wall street with her sister, Victoria Woodhull, afterward the wife of John Biddulph Martin, a London banker.

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LEARNS CAUSE OF RIOT.

Japanese Secretary Completes Investigation of Trouble in Mexico.

Mexico City, Mexico, Jan. 27.—The first secretary of the Japanese Legation has completed an investigation of a riot in which a number of Japanese were involved at Laesparanza, State of Coahuila. His report shows that the conflict took place between 20 or 30 Japanese workmen and policemen.

The men were employed in the Mexican Coal and Coke Company's mine. They became discontented and announced their intention of quitting work. Then the manager of the mine called in six policemen to keep the men from stopping work. The Japanese workmen attacked the policemen with sticks and rocks, and the policemen fired upon the Japanese, injuring three, though not seriously.

SWETTENHAM IS PROTESTED.

Kingston Newspaper Men Claim to the Colonial Secretary.

London, Jan. 27.—The Kingston correspondent of the Tribune, cabling under date of January 26, says that Gov. Swettenham having refused to grant interviews to the local journalists, the latter have decided to forward representations to the Earl of Eglinton, colonial secretary, regarding the governor's attitude.

The correspondent adds that the Admiral Davis incident continues to excite bitter feeling among the public in view of the splendid work done by the Americans. The governor passes the day riding about the city, and in consequence important work at headquarters regarding relief is much neglected.

PASTORS URGE LOCAL OPTION.

Two Thousand in Illinois Speak in Favor of Bill Before Legislature.

Chicago, Jan. 27.—Protestant ministers in more than 100 Chicago pulpits and in at least 2,000 throughout the State spoke to-day in favor of the local option bill introduced in the Illinois legislature last week.

The measure will come before the lower house of the assembly Tuesday or Wednesday, and the ministers urged the passage of the bill.

The bill is practically the same one which failed to pass at the last session, and it is through the State Anti-Saloon League, that still greater efforts are being made to insure its success this year. It is proposed to permit the electors in each voting precinct in the State to determine the question of prohibition for themselves.

Ambassador Reid Has Influenza.

London, Jan. 27.—Ambassador Reid developed influenza on his voyage from New York, and was confined to his cabin for two days. He is now convalescent.

THAW MOPES IN CELL.

Continued from First Page.

PROBE FOR JURYMEN

State's Attorney After Peoria, Ill., Men.

"WHITEWASHING" IS CHARGED

Claim Is Made They Deliberately Failed to Return Indictments Against Influential Citizens, and Twenty-five Members of Panel Will Be Put Under Fire To-day.

Peoria, Ill., Jan. 27.—Charged with smothering indictments against former county officials, twenty-five members of the November grand jury have been summoned to appear before the present inquisitorial body to-morrow to answer accusations by State's Attorney Scholes of "whitewashing" the accused under powerful political pressure.

The district attorney has assured the present grand jury that evidence was presented to the last panel amply sufficient to warrant true bills, but that Foreman Wallace Mathews, a life-long friend of former Sheriff Porter, against whom grave accusations of "grafting" were made, declared that he did not want Porter to leave office with his name under a cloud, and prevailed upon the other jurors to take the same course.

Former Sheriff C. E. Johnson, who first made the "grafting" charges, was accused of being insane, and even arrested and held before a jury, will go before the grand jury early in the week to tell his story.

He is prepared to make charges of the gravest character against many former officials and to support them with an avalanche of evidence.

DEPOSITORS RARELY LOSE.

Chicago Banker Defends Present Currency Laws Despite Thefts.

Chicago, Jan. 27.—Bankers who wish to steal will continue to steal despite all the restraints the State and national laws may put on banking, according to Vice President E. D. Hulbert, of the Merchants' Loan and Trust Company, in an address before the Marquette Club, to-day.

"No amount of legal control," said the speaker, "can prevent a bank president, if so inclined, from becoming a thief if he brings the minor officials of his bank into his conspiracy and so falsifies his accounts as to deceive the examiner."

"Because such things occur is no justification for the tying a ball and chain in the shape of harsh legislation to the ankle of every banker."

"In the seventeen years that the present banking law has been enforced there have been but three failures in which the depositors lost money—those of the Globe, the Dime, and the Milwaukee Avenue banks."

"The real loss to the poor is from schemes originated by supposedly reputable business men, who tempt the man or woman on a small income with promises of large returns for small investments."

DECIDE TO DROP "SALOME."

Directors of Metropolitan Opera Company Will Withdraw Protested Opera.

New York, Jan. 27.—It was reported to-night that a meeting of some of the directors of the Conried Metropolitan Opera Company had been held to-night at the home of Rawlin L. Cotton, and that it had been decided to yield to the wishes of the Metropolitan Opera and Real Estate Company and withdraw "Salome."

The meeting was attended by Mr. Cotton, Otto Kahn, Elliot Gregory, Henry Rogers Whitney, and Edmund L. Baylies. A conference between the directors of the Conried Metropolitan Opera Company and the executive committee of the Metropolitan Opera and Real Estate Company will be held to-morrow to consider the answer sent by Mr. Conried.

In the meantime there has been a demand to hear the announced performance, and tickets are still being sold.

None of the directors of the Metropolitan Opera House would discuss to-day the possibility of the discontinuance of the opera.

DIFFICULT TASK FOR CHURCH.

Deceased Member Wants His Spirit on the Board of Trustees.

Kokomo, Ind., Jan. 27.—George W. Deffenbaugh, an eccentric and wealthy man who died recently, leaves the church of his faith \$500,000 on condition that his spirit be elected a member of the board of trustees of the church and be permitted to attend its meetings.

Mr. Deffenbaugh was a believer in Swedenborg. While the church is the chief beneficiary under his will, he has provided liberally for his wife and children.

The will of twenty typewritten pages contains a plan for the government of the church, and provides that the trustees are to meet often and consult with his spirit regarding details.

Deffenbaugh's children will contest the will on the ground that their father was insane.

ELOPES WITH HIS CHAUFFEUR.

Automobile Agent Upsets Precedents, According to His Wife.

Chicago, Jan. 27.—Women have eloped with their coachmen and chauffeurs so often that romances of this kind have ceased to be romantic at all.

Harry Morris has upset all precedents, his wife says, by eloping with his chauffeur, Mrs. Morris does not like the innovation and seeks a divorce.

Mrs. Morris said she did not even know the chauffeur's name. "My husband was in the automobile business," she said to-night, "and he used to make me jealous by telling what a good chauffeur he had."

The deserted wife will tell her story to Judge Honore to-morrow.

Woman Dead; Husband Dying.

Chicago, Jan. 27.—Mrs. Margaret Rice was burned to death to-day, and her invalid husband, Patrick Rice, is dying from injuries caused by the explosion of a preparation with which the former was cleaning a stove in their flat. Rice, a former policeman, was ill in bed when his wife, enveloped in flames, rushed into his room shrieking for assistance. It was while trying to save his wife that Rice suffered the injuries which will cost him his life within a few hours.

Tows Burning Steamer to Port.

London, Jan. 28.—The British cruiser Diadem, at Colchester, telegraphs that she found the North German Lloyd steamer Seydlitz on fire in latitude 55° north, longitude 8°34' east. The war ship took off 105 passengers and the mails, and towed the Seydlitz to Point de Galle. The fore part of the steamer was burned out. All the passengers and mails are safe.

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SOLDIER KILLS MATE.

Continued from First Page.

the thickets on the river bank. He was placed under a special guard and will remain at the post until to-day, when he will be delivered to the sheriff, who will take him to the jail at Marlboro.

Gosney was twenty-six years old, and had been in the army for two years, most of which time was spent at Fort Washington. He was a good-looking fellow, according to his comrades, and one of the most popular in the post. His record has been uniformly good, and it is said he was absent on leave at the time of the shooting. His mother and one sister are said to be his only relatives.

Wineberger has been enlisted for three years, and he, too, bears an excellent reputation among the men at the fort. His record is good, and he is regarded as among the most capable artillerymen at the fort. His home is given by J. D. Johnson, of St. Louis, attorney for the Water-Pierce Company, at last night's session of the legislative committee which is investigating the charges against Senator Bailey.

Mr. Johnson testified that at this conference J. D. Archbold and a number of other Standard Oil men and Water-Pierce officials were present. Mr. Bailey was also there, and in the course of the discussion Mr. Bailey was informed for the first time that the Standard Oil Company owned stock of the Water-Pierce Company.

Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Bailey was highly indignant when he was told of this fact, and declared that he had been grossly deceived into believing that the Water-Pierce Company was an independent concern. So incensed was Mr. Bailey, according to Johnson's testimony, that he arose and denounced the Standard Oil crowd. Mr. Bailey told Mr. Archbold and the other men present that they ought all to be in the penitentiary, and that he would help to